post offices in the rural areas of the country; and

(c) If so, what steps Government propose to take to improve rural postal service ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BHADUR SINGH : (a) The information is being collected from the field units and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Some complaints are received about the performance of rural post offices.

(c) In order to improve postal services in the rural sector, the Department has proposed to open 6,000 new post offices during the 7th Plan. In addition, scheme of 'Panchayat Dak Sewaks, has also been introduced on an experimental basis under this Scheme Gram Pancha Yats which do not have a post office are given a monthly grant of Rs. 150/- for engaging their own Dak Sewaks through whom postal facilities are provided to the local community.

Shifiting the Project site of Thermal Power Station from Morad Nagar Area of Ghaziahad to Dadri in Bulandshahr (U.P.)

4523. SHRI SHANTI TYAQI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed project site for a thermal power station in Murad Nagar area of Ghaziabad district has been shifted to Dadri in the district of Bulandshar;

(b) if so, what has happened to the lands in the villages of Saitli, Khurampur, etc. in Muradnagar area which was acquired for the project site which has now been shifted; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the cultivators whose lands have been taken over by the NTPC have neither been paid proper compensation nor given back their lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The National Capital Thermal Power Project, which was earlier proposed to be set up near Murad Nagar in Ghaziabad District of Uttar Pradesh is now under execution at a site near Dadri in the same District.

(b) While no land had been acquired in village Saitli, the land acquired for the project is being utilised by the National Thermal power Corporation to establish the main Earth Station for the satellite communication network and the proposed Transmission Training Institute.

(c) No, Sir; due compensation was paid for the acquired land.